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'07 Weddings



Greg Maurer with all the bride's maids, April 8, 2006. Front row (L to R) Rada Samardzija, Emily Yannuzzi, Jill Burnett (groom's sister), Greg Maurer, Linda Maurer (groom's sister-in-law), Natalie Stelmazcek, Lisa Leonard. Behind Greg are Natalie VanMeter and Jacqueline Krupinski. Photo by Casey Cronin.

The Blains celebrate their 50th anniversary

Sylvia and Michael Blain recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Jerusalem. The dinner party, hosted by their children was held in the beautiful gardens of the Zionist Confederation House facing the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem. Guests included friends and relatives from all over Israel, the United States, and Budapest, Hungary.

Upon their return from Israel, the Blains hosted another weekend of celebrations in Indianapolis. A Shabbat Kid-dush luncheon was served at Congregation B'nai Torah. Shabbat dinner (Friday and Saturday evenings) were served at the Blain residence to out-of-town guests who came from California, New Jersey, Virginia, Ohio, Maryland, Illinois, Florida, New

York and Toronto, Canada.

Michael met Sylvia Kramer, a Rochester, N.Y., native at a synagogue picnic when he was a student at Rochester Institute of Technology. They were soon married in New York City.

The Blains have three married sons: Rabbi Zvi (Julie), an educator, associate dean of Nishmat, a women's college in Jerusalem, author, and rabbi of a congregation in Efrat, Israel; Dr. David (Susan), a research chemist with Exxon Mobil in New Jersey; and Daniel (Miriam), senior vice-president of the Cleveland Jewish Community Federation. They have 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Sylvia and Mike, who moved here from Cleveland 35 years ago, are both retired. Sylvia worked at the Hasten

Hebrew Academy for 23 years, the last 15 years as administrator. Prior to that she worked for the Gallup Poll and Welcome Wagon. Sylvia is still active in volunteer organizations and is president of Parents of North American Israelis (PNAI), Indianapolis chapter, which she and Mike founded in 1981.

Mike, a Holocaust survivor and Korean War veteran, was born in Selce, a village in the sub-Carpathian region of the former Czechoslovakia. The area was occupied by Hungary (1939-1945) and is now in the Ukraine.

Mike recently retired after 33 years with Israel Bonds. Prior to that he worked in the book publishing business in Cleveland and as a ladies handbag maker in Budapest, London and New York.

Both Sylvia and Mike were honored and received numerous awards for their volunteer and professional work, including the highest Indiana State award, the Sagamore of the Wabash from Governor Frank O'Bannon. In her spare time, Sylvia likes to read, visit Hooverwood residents, travel,



Sylvia and Mike Blain celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in Jerusalem.

entertain, and exercise at the JCC. Mike likes to read, write, teach Yiddish, lecture, and travel with Sylvia mainly to Israel (about 30 times so far), and visit grandchildren. ★

Editor's Note

This issue is the first of two wedding issues. If you have news and pictures you would like to see printed in the *Indiana Jewish Post & Opinion* email us at writers@indy.rr.com.



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Megan Schloer and Greg Maurer Wedding



Megan and Greg under the chuppah at Beth-El Zedeck. Rabbis Dennis and Sandy Sasso officiated.
Photo by Casey Cronin.



Megan and Greg sign their ketuba. Witnesses include (L to R) Rabbi Dennis Sasso, Rabbi Sandy Sasso, Betty Carlin (Greg's grandmother), Mickey and Janie Maurer (Greg's parents), Greg Maurer (groom), Megan Schloer (bride), Mark and Kathy Schloer (Megan's parents).
Photo by Casey Cronin.

Megan Marie Schloer and Greg Alan Maurer, both of Carmel, Ind., were married on April 8, 2006, at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck in Indianapolis. Rabbis Dennis and Sandy Sasso officiated.

Megan is the daughter of Kathy and Mark Schloer of Crown Point, Ind. Her grandmothers, Irene Lape of Crown Point and Margaret Schloer of Schererville, Ind., were both in attendance.

Greg is the son of Janie and Michael S. Maurer

of Carmel, Ind. His grandmother, Betty Carlin of Indianapolis, was in attendance.

Megan holds a BS from the IU Kelley School of Business and an MA in teaching from University of Indianapolis. Greg holds a BS from the IU Kelley School of Business and a JD from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, MO. He is a venture capitalist. Both Megan and Greg enjoy reading, running, biking, and traveling. ★

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Now it's "Our Song" not "My Way"

By JENNIFER L. SLATE

Not sure what song you should make eternally yours as you and your beshert trip the light fantastic for the first time as a married couple? Here's a guide to help lead you in the right direction.

If you and your mate-to-be consider yourself a couple for all ages, transcending time, think Adam and Eve or Caesar and Cleopatra. Try these "timeless" tunes and performers:

"A Whole New World" by Peabow Bryson and Regina Belle

"As Time Goes By" from *Casablanca*

"What a Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong

For couples who don't mind a little extra attention and expect all eyes to focus on their fancy footwork, consider couples like Fred and Ginger or Danny and Sandy from *Grease*. The spotlight's on you with songs like:

"Moondance" by Van Morrison

"The Way You Look Tonight" by Frank Sinatra

"Could I Have This Dance?" by Anne Murray

"I Only Have Eyes for You" by The Flamingos

Some experts say that couples who were friends before they were lovers have the best relationships. Did you identify with *When Harry Met Sally* or when Monica and Chandler became more than friends? These tunes will capture your story perfectly:

"I Think I Love You" by The Partridge Family

"You've Got a Friend" by James Taylor

"It Had to Be You" by Harry Connick, Jr.

Were you a "Cinderella" or "Pretty Woman" waiting to be swept off your feet by a prince? Consider songs that speak to your fairy tale of love:

"I Finally Found Someone" by Barbra Streisand and Bryan Adams

"At Last" by Etta James

"Some Enchanted Evening" from *South Pacific*

Maybe you and your honey are just a couple of comedians, always making each other laugh. Think Woody Allen and Diane Keaton in *An-*

nie Hall or the incomparable Lucy and Desi. Add a touch of fun to your first dance with tunes like:

"When I'm 64" by The Beatles

"Love Is Strange" by Mickey and Sylvia

"Let's Call the Whole Thing Off" by Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong

For young couples or those who are young at heart, think of pairings like Annette Funicello and Frankie Avalon or Joanie and Chachi from *Happy Days*. Show the world that you're in it for the long haul

with tunes like:


"Our Love Is Here to Stay" by Billie Holiday

"Grow Old With Me" by Mary Chapin Carpenter

"The Best Is Yet to Come" by Frank Sinatra

No matter what song you choose, remember to smile and enjoy your special time with your loved one. This is your moment to shine. ★

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The *Indiana Jewish Post & Opinion* is now available at four locations in Indianapolis: **Marsh** at 86th and Ditch, **Northside News** at 54th and College, **O'Malia's** at 136th & Meridian and **Nora Library**.

Welcome to the world Estelle



Jennifer and Omid Rastegar are pleased to announce they have added a healthy baby girl to their family! Estelle Jolie Rastegar was born on Mon., Jan. 15, at 10:39 a.m. Baby Estelle (or Stella, as they call her) weighed 8 lbs. and 12 oz. and was 20 3/4 inches long. Stella is a curiosity to her big brother, Asher, who calls her "bee" (his attempt at saying "baby"). Congratulations and best wishes for sleep from the Post to the Rastegars. ✨

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Leaving a legacy: Mordoh family names the JCC Fitness Center

The brothers Mordoh, Al, Sol, and Leon, have maintained a longstanding connection with the JCC through their service, participation and philanthropy. Most recently, they joined together to make a gift to the Arthur M. Glick JCC at 6701 Hoover Road in memory of their late brother, Ensign Gilbert (Geon) Mordoh, who died in a Navy shipyard on July 17, 1944.

The JCC members and board are honored by the Mordohs' continuing generosity, and are proud to announce the renaming of the Fitness Center to the "Ensign Gilbert (Geon) M. Mordoh Fitness Center."

Geon was born in 1921 and would have been the second oldest of the four brothers. From early in his life he demonstrated the characteristics of a true leader. He was the first in his Boy Scout troop (#50) to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, an award that fewer than 5 percent of Boy Scouts earn even today.

Geon was the captain of his high school football team and thereafter earned a full football scholarship to Purdue University. He graduated in 1943 in the top 10 percent of his class and then enlisted in the Navy.

Tragically, Geon was on the ship at Port Chicago in California when 429 tons of munitions exploded. Hundreds of enlisted personnel and civilians were killed and injured, and three naval ships were destroyed. Ensign Mordoh was buried in Indianapolis with full military honors.

The surviving brothers carry on Geon's legacy of leadership. Leon, the president of HPS Office Systems and the youngest brother, has been a JCC board member since 1991, and has served as a vice president for the past four years. He also serves on the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis.

Al, owner and manager of Meridian Hills Apartments at 64th St. and Hoover Rd. in Indianapolis, has served on the boards of the Bureau of Jewish Education, the Hasten Hebrew Academy and Etz Chaim Sephardic Congregation.

Sol, now retired from business, has been a JCC member for over 35 years.

Leon's commitment to the JCC dates back to his youth when the Kirschbaum Center, later to become the JCC, was the place where he could play sports, swim, build friendships and develop a sense of com-

munity. In many respects, he grew up at the JCC. He hopes that the JCC will continue to thrive in the Indianapolis community so that young people can be nurtured there, just as he was in his youth. ★



Al, Leon and Sol Mordoh at the naming of the JCC Fitness Center. Photo by Linda Evans.

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JCC director of fitness, sports and recreation retires after 35 years

How do you measure success? For JCC Director of Fitness, Sports and Recreation Rod Hofts, success is measured by the numbers of children and adults who have passed through JCC's athletic and fitness programs during his tenure. And that number? It's in the thousands.

"When I look back on my 35 years at the JCC," Hofts reflected in a recent discussion, "my greatest joy has come from seeing the smiles on people's faces as they accomplished something, a basketball game, a good workout, anything that they set their mind to do."

Since coming onboard with the JCC in 1968 (with a hiatus between 1970 and 1973) as the physical education director, Hofts has assisted, encouraged, coached and witnessed JCC members – too many to count – excel in their sport or program of choice. "It's about people," Hofts explained. "It's about coaches hugging a kid, or teammates hugging each

other. It's about how the JCC enhances people's lives."

With so many smiling faces filling his career, Rod Hofts retired at the end of 2006. To many, he is a legend, a permanent fixture around the JCC's facility on Hoover Rd. His career reads like the history of the JCC in Indianapolis, but more than just bearing witness to the JCC's development, Hofts was instrumental in guiding the direction of the many expansions and developments that have made the JCC what it is today.

During his tenure, Hofts launched youth and adult athletic leagues, notably the Allen Katner Youth Soccer League. Under the direction of the lay leadership of Dr. Allen Katner and Mike Vogle, the JCC launched the city's first soccer league in 1976. Thirteen children took to the field that first year and hundreds have played in the league since. "What is most gratifying," Hofts said, "is that many of these players have returned to the JCC with

their children, and now the next generation is playing in the league."

Hofts has always placed enormous value on leagues and on team play. "The sport is important," he explains, "but the character development and skills learned through being on a team – taking direction, exhibiting good sportsmanship, preparing to win, having discipline and commitment – those are the skills that you carry throughout your entire life."

Hofts doesn't say this lightly. He knows from a lifetime of playing sports that the game prepares one for life. As a football player on scholarship at Kansas State University and then Hastings College, he learned to be a team player early on. His mother was the primary influence for his love of sports and athletics. Growing up in Deshler, Nebraska, a farming community of 600 people, Hofts' mother played sports of all types with her three children to keep them active

in what otherwise could have been a sleepy environment. From his first event in elementary school through the many that followed in grade school, high school and college, his mother and father rarely missed a game, both at home and away.

While Hofts' story may have begun in a small town in Nebraska, his long career took root in Indianapolis. Those roots are well entrenched, so he will continue to maintain

a connection with the JCC in the role of special consultant to fitness and sports. Hofts sums up his career with the same respect and compassion he demonstrates for JCC members: "Any success I have had over my 35 years at the JCC can be attributed to the great volunteer athletic coaches and lay



Rod Hofts

committee leaders who guided the direction and content of the Sports and Fitness programs. It couldn't have been possible without them or without the dedicated staff who cared deeply about our programs and the agency mission."

Rod Hofts—a team player all the way to the end. ★



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Wed., Feb. 21: *Trembling Before G-d*

Tues., March 6: *Double Dare*

Wed., March 21: *Paris Is Burning*

Tues., April 10: *Fast, Cheap, and Out of Control*

Wed., April 18: *League of Ordinary Gentleman*

Sunday Taste of ACE

An adult continuing education assortment of fun and learning. Free. Sundays 10-11:30 a.m., at JCC Indy, for bagels, fun and learning. For more on JCC winter/spring classes, go to www.jccindy.org or call 317-251-9467.

Change of format – Don't be confused

To better serve our Indiana readers, the front page of the newspaper will now be about Indiana. The rest of the pages of Indiana news will begin on page 2, as it always has, but will continue as the back few pages of the paper, following the National pages. ★

Feb. 18 – The Women Behind Abraham – Sarah and Hagar, with playwright Rita Kohn

March 18 – Everyone Has a Story – Memoir Writing, with Lorene Burkhart

April 22 – Couples Workshop, with Anne Taylor

Cooking for Passover
Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation's Adult Jewish Academy offers a 2-week course on Cooking for Passover with instructor Bruce Signer. \$40 IHC members / \$50 nonmembers; Tuesdays,

7:00 – 8:30ish, Feb. 20, 27, at IHC on North Meridian Street; to register call, Dovie at 317-255-6647, ext 200.

JCC Business Network

The JCC Business Network is a dynamite place to make connections. Meet every third Wednesday at the JCC (Feb. 21, March 21, April 25), 6:30-8:30 p.m. Dinner and networking or just networking. Be sure to RSVP with Larry if you're planning on dinner (usually \$10) at 317-251-9467, ext 233.

There's still time to order your hamantashen

The Congregation Shaarey Tefilla Sisterhood will be baking hamantashen for the whole community! You can

order a number of delicious flavors: poppy seed, prune, apricot, raspberry, strawberry, apple, and Nutella (*new this year*). Order whole dozens only for only \$7.50/dz. Orders must be placed no later than Thurs., Feb. 22, 2007, and should be prepaid with cash, check, or credit card. Orders will be filled during February and be available for pickup at the JCC or at Shaarey Tefilla; when your order is ready, you will be called. For more information or to place an order, contact Sally Brindle at 317-797-5881 or at pacerpal@aol.com or contact cstpurim@yahoo.com.

Cooking with Chef Prosper JCC's Adult Continuing

February 14, 2007 IN 9

Education offers Cooking with the Three Musketeers (parsley, basil and cilantro) with instructor Chef Prosper, Feb. 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the JCC on Hoover Road; \$45 JCC members/\$50 nonmembers. For more information, call 317-251-9467.

Israeli Literature

Professor Stephen Katz of Indiana University will teach a new Melton course titled *Israeli Literature as a Window to Israeli Society* at the Bureau of Jewish Education beginning March 1. The class will meet Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. for 10 weeks. Cost: \$130. For more information, call Tracy Mishkin at 317-255-3124. ★

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Obituaries

Regina Peller Concannon, 74

Regina Peller Concannon, of Indianapolis, died January 12, 2007.

She was a graduate of Indiana University and attended Indiana University School of Law. Mrs. Concannon worked as a realtor for Hallmark Realty and later served as the manager of the Broad Ripple office of McClain-Mathews Realty. In 1977 she and her late husband, Clete Concannon, purchased Henthorn Mower and Engine Service, a company that she continued following his death.

She was a member of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, where she taught religious school for many years. She was also a life member of Hadassah and a member of the Indianapolis Board of Realtors.

Survivors include her beloved children, Eugene (Rickie) Star, Dr. Louis (Janie) Star, and Tish (Ben) Doochin; eight grandchildren, Jennie, Michael, Brett, Jordan, Cole, Justin, Olivia and Rebekah; and former husband, Alex Star.

Funeral services were held on Sun., Jan. 14, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. in Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary, Indpls. Burial followed in Beth-El Zedeck North Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Hadassah.

Bess Ratner Ochs, 84

Bess Ratner Ochs, of Indianapolis, died January 15, 2007.

Mrs. Ochs worked for the U.S. government's Office of Strategic Services during World War II and later worked as an executive secretary in Omaha, Neb. In Indianapolis she was a real estate broker for over 30 years.

Mrs. Ochs was a member of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, former member of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck Sisterhood, and a member of the Indiana University School of Medicine Faculty Wives Club. For many years, she enjoyed being a part of a close-knit bowling league.

Mrs. Ochs was a loving, kind and devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She will be deeply missed by her family, which includes her husband Sidney Ochs; her daughters Rachel Ochs-Ross (Curt) and Susan Ochs Panfil (David); son Raymond (Jessica) Ochs; five grandchildren Meredith, Rebecca, Michael, Matthew and Sarah; and her brother Fivel Ratner.

Funeral services were held on Wed., Jan. 17, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. at Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary in Indpls.

Mollie Mirkin

Mollie Mirkin, of Aventura, Fla., formerly of South Bend, Ind., died January 7, 2007. She was the beloved wife of Isadore Mirkin; loving mother of Phillip (Monica) Mirkin and Barbara

(Lendard) Wolfson; dear sister of the late Faye Davis; cherished grandmother of Phillip Frank, Martin Price, Clair Jacobson, Lainie Hurwitz, Camilla Mirkin, Sophia Mirkin; and adored great-grandmother of Ellen, Jackson, Max, Marley, Isaac, Cate and Rachel. Services were held at 12:00 noon on Fri., Jan. 12 at Hebrew Orthodox Cemetery, Mishawaka, Ind.

Anna Sofnas Levy, 94

Anna Sofnas Levy, life resident of Indianapolis, died January 24, 2007 at St. Vincent Hospice.

She had worked for many years as a sales associate at various local jewelers and was a member of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck and its Sisterhood. Anna was the widow of the late Leonard Levy. Survivors include her daughter, Charlotte Goldstein, her granddaughter, Elaine Mor-doh, and a great grandson.

Graveside services were held on Fri., Jan. 26, 2007 in Beth-El Zedeck North Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, 600 West 70th Street Indianapolis, IN 46260. Arrangements entrusted to Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Mortuary. *

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